United Nations

Press Release

Department of Public Information • News Coverage Service • New York

Prepared by Central News

DH/939
25 July 1991

THURSDAY HIGHLIGHTS

- Security Council considers details of possible mechanism to monitor use of money earned from sale of oil by Iraq.

- Fourth International Atomic Energy Agency inspection team departs for Iraq.

- Identification Commission of United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara completes first step of work reviving 1974 census list.

- Anti-Apartheid Committee appeals to South African authorities to take "immediate remedial action to establish good faith in any future negotiations and restore confidence of South African people".

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The Security Council held consultations this morning to discuss the situation in Iraq. The Council has been urged by its Sanctions Committee to lift sanctions to allow Iraq to sell its oil so that it can meet its humanitarian needs. Secretary-General Javier Pérez de Cuéllar has also recommended that the oil embargo be lifted to enable Iraq to pay war compensation.

The Secretary-General told correspondents after the consultations that the Council was considering details of a possible mechanism to monitor the use of money earned from the sale of oil by Iraq.

The Secretary-General said the Council considered the humanitarian needs of the Iraqi population to be very urgent. He said he was glad that the Council was considering allowing Iraq to sell some oil in order to address this very serious question. He added, however, that some Council members wanted Iraq to pay other liabilities stemming from resolution 687 (1991).

The Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom, Sir David Hannay, said the Council had reached very broad agreement on a number of points. To ensure that the proper priorities were observed, there would have to be

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"water-tight controls at all stages", namely, at the stage of export of oil and the payment to be put into an escrow account; at the stage of purchase of the humanitarian products; and at the stage of distribution in Iraq, to ensure that "the humanitarian supplies benefit the people in Iraq and not the objectives of the Government of Iraq".

The Council is expected to continue its informal discussions.

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A fourth nuclear inspection team of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is scheduled to arrive in Baghdad on Saturday, 27 July, a United Nations spokesman announced today.

The team, which is made up of 15 members, will be headed by David Kay of IAEA. Its mission, undertaken under the terms of Security Council resolution 687, is to inspect Iraqi nuclear material and facilities which formed part of that country's enrichment programme.

The spokesman said that the findings of the third inspection mission, which was concluded last weekend, had been discussed this morning in Vienna by IAEA Director-General Hans Blix.

According to IAEA, more than 30 sites have been visited during the three inspection visits carried out so far. More than 300 samples of nuclear material and environmental samples have also been taken and 950 inspection days spent. However, the Agency said it was premature to draw conclusions as to the full extent of the Iraqi nuclear programme.

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The Identification Commission of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) has completed the first step of its work, which consisted of updating and revising the 1974 Western Saharan census list.

The United Nations Secretariat had transmitted a copy of the 1974 census list to the two parties in October 1990, requesting that the list be updated, taking into account the population changes in the Territory in the past 16 years. As revised by the Commission, the new list contains a total of 70,204 names.

As a second step, the revised list is being published in the Territory to inform the Western Saharans whose names had not appeared in the 1974 census or on the revised list that they could apply to be included. An identification Commission team will go to the Mission area in early August to facilitate further work.

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The Special Committee against Apartheid has said that news of the secret use of public funds and of covert activities by the South African authorities for the purpose of weakening the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC) and the anti-apartheid struggle has come as no surprise.

In a statement issued at Headquarters yesterday, Committee Chairman Ibrahim A. Gambari of Nigeria said the Committee has repeatedly pointed out the "inability or unwillingness" of the South African authorities to bring violence to an end, as well as the involvement of elements of the South African security forces in instigating violence against black communities.

The Chairman said revelations of the secret public funding for subversive activities have confirmed the Committee's previously expressed concerns and indicate how premature the recent lifting of sanctions against South Africa by some Governments has been.

The Committee also urged South African authorities "to take immediate remedial action to establish good faith in any future negotiations", adding that unless a climate conducive to negotiations and free political activities was established soon, it was likely that the process of achieving national reconciliation and adopting a new democratic constitution might be derailed.

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